

Application No. 10/662,223

IN THE CLAIMS

In this Response, claims 4, 5, 7, 27, 31, and 32 have been amended.

1. (previously presented) An apparatus to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a coating substance, comprising a member including a plurality of pores disposed on a surface of the member, the pores capable of receiving a coating substance during the coating process, and wherein the pores have an open end and a closed end so as to provide a closed pore system on the surface of the member.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the pores have a diameter from about 0.2 microns to about 50 microns.

Claim 3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the member~~first and/or second element~~ is made from a metallic material.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the member~~first and/or second element~~ is made from a polymeric material.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of regenerated cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyacetal, polyetheretherketone, polyesters, highly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol, nylon, polyphenylenesulfide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the member~~first and/or second element~~ is made from a ceramic material.

Claims 8-24 (canceled).

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25. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, hafnium, and cobalt chromium alloys.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of zirconia, silica, glass, sintered calcium phosphates, calcium sulfate, and titanium dioxide.

27. (currently amended) A mounting assembly to support a stent during the application of a coating composition onto the stent, comprising a first element to make contact with one side of a stent, and a second element to make contact with another side of the stentmember, wherein the first element and/or the second elementmember includes a layer to absorb a coating composition that comes into contact with the layer during the application process.

28. (previously presented) The mounting assembly of Claim 27, wherein the layer is a sponge.

29. (previously presented) The mounting assembly of Claim 27, wherein the first and/or second element is made from a metallic material, a polymeric material or a ceramic material.

30. (previously presented) The mounting assembly of Claim 27, wherein the first and/or second element has a conical shape.

31. (currently amended) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a first element to make contact with one side of a stent, and a second element to make contact with another side of the stentmember, wherein the first element and/or the second elementmember includes an absorbing layer disposed on the

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surface of the first element and/or the second element~~member~~ for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the absorbing layer.

32. (currently amended) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a first element to make contact with one side of a stent, and a second element to make contact with another side of the stent~~member~~, wherein the first element and/or the second element~~member~~ is made from an absorbent material for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the first element and/or the second element~~member~~.